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PRESS RELEASE

USAID DONATES \$4.9 MILLION TO DECONTAMINATE LAKE TITICACA

BIOLOGICAL FERTILIZER PRODUCTION TO PREVENT ORGANIC WASTE FROM CONTAMINATING LAKE

Since 2009, the U.S. government, through USAID, has invested \$4.9 million to decontaminate Lake Titicaca through the PROLAGO project. This effort has the active participation of farming families in the region and uses innovative technologies to protect the ecosystem.

In the municipality of Pucarani, PROLAGO installed two collection and marketing centers for compost made from cattle manure, which is potentially harmful to lake waters. This initiative prevents more than 1,000 metric tons of manure from polluting Lake Titicaca every year.

U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Mitchell Ferguson inaugurated two composting centers to produce humus and biological fertilizer in the towns of Chojasivi and Quiripujo, both in Pucarani municipality. Ferguson highlighted the dual importance of this project, which generates additional income for some 250 families in the region and prevents contamination of Lake Titicaca.

With the production of organic humus and biological fertilizer, the residents of the area, who mainly produce livestock, dairy, and cheese, may increase their income by selling cattle manure.

The transformation of cattle manure into fertilizer is done by using worm-filled containers and digesters. This transformation also reduces the emission of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

USAID/Bolivia programs support the National Development Plan of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and seek to improve the quality of life of the population through activities that increase revenues and create productive opportunities, while respecting the environment and contributing to sustainable economic development.